tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult, thereby enhancing the security of motor vehicles.

Introduction of new number plates

3147. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cost benefit analysis of introducing the new system of number plates has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many advanced countries such a new number plate system have not been introduced;

(d) what is the necessity to introduce the new number plates in the country; and

(e) whether any comprehensive study in the matter have been conducted and if not, whether Government propose to commission a study and put up the report before the Parliament before taking any further step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The new system of High Security tamper proof number plates would provide increased security to motor vehicles from theft. As such no cost benefit analysis is possible.

(c) to (e) Introduction of High Security Registration Plates has been notified on the basis of the recommendation made by the Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules. These plates have a number of security features which would make removal, tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult, thereby enhancing the security of motor vehicles. Some, but not all of these features are also available in the number plates used in many advanced countries. The combination of security features prescribed in the High Security Registration Plates was recommended by the Central Motor Vehicles Rules—Technical Standing Committee and accepted by Government in view of our prevailing environment. There is no proposal to commission any further study.

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for roads

3148. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided any assistance to Chhattisgarh for construction, repair and maintenance of roads;

(b) the quantum of assistance provided for the last one year;

(c) the details of the proposals submitted by the State Government for that period; and

(d) the number of projects completed as against those approved by the Central Government in the State Government's proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period 2002-2003, an amount of Rs. 86.6 crore had been provided to the State Government of Chhattisgarh for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways. In addition an amount of Rs. 42.85 crore was provided for improvement of State roads under the Central Road Fund (CRF).

(c) and (d) During the period 2002-2003, 51 proposals for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways were received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh, 46 proposals amounting to Rs. 84.76 crore were sanctioned of which 19 works have been completed. 9 works sanctioned under CRF have also been completed.

Improvement of National Highways in Kerala

3149. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Government of Kerala for improvement of National Highways in the State ;

(b) whether necessary approvals have been granted to the proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount sanctioned to each of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) 45 proposals have been received for improvement of National Highways in Kerala.